



Gender mainstreaming in pastoral systems

Gender dynamics in pastoral communities determine

- Livestock ownership and herd dynamics
- Management practices adopted
- Traits selected in individual animals
- Marketing of animals and their products

Diverse socio-economic and cultural contexts in different pastoral communities disproportionally affect women and result in skewed development interventions

Gender roles and labour investments greatly impact the adoption of livestock breeds and the requisite practices in their management

Among livestock species in pastoral communities, sheep and goats are easier for women to acquire, own and manage

Innovative approach

Enquire: Explore production environment, Identify community needs, understand cultural practices,

Engage: Identify, engage and involve local government, development partners, men and women in communities

Engage: Jointly determine context specific interventions, identify innovative implementers, adapt and use local resources

Develop capacity: Train local extension and service providers for long term sustainability, Train targeted community groups

Empower: Support implementation of transformational practices, Support networks for services and product marketing

Gender mainstreaming in improving productivity through herd management and community-based breeding

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| County | Target Households in community groups | | |
|----------|---------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| | Men | Women | Total |
| Isiolo | 17 | 13 | 30 |
| Marsabit | 18 | 12 | 30 |
| Turkana | 29 | 31 | 60 |
| Total | 64 | 56 | 120 |

Opportunities in adopting best-bet management practices

- **Engaging pastoralists as community groups reduces resistance to change and enables faster acceptance of best-bet practices for livestock improvement**
- **Deliberate involvement of women within communities enables greater insights into dynamics on decision making in managing categorized livestock assets**
- **The ability to make informed decisions on animal sales and use of income generated is critical in determining the choice of breeds and the traits maintained in the population**

Feedback and communication of information

- Developing and sharing new knowledge and feedback from observations of on-going practices with both men and women in communities helps to catalyse change
- Developing mobile phone-based tools in addition to paper-based training manuals enabled access to content on best-bet practices for other communities through partners and service providers in the target areas.

Impact of interventions

- Men appreciated the role of women in the management of sheep and goats
- Men allowed women to participate and contribute actively in training on best practices for sheep and goat management
- Men allowed women to make decisions on selective mating and culling in their sheep and goat populations



Next steps

- ✓ Training of National partners and extension service providers on best-bet practices through community innovation groups for long term sustainability of interventions
- ✓ Strengthening marketing networks for livestock products
- ✓ Facilitating learning across pastoral communities through “farmer to farmer” learning expositions

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